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says, "Okay, go pick up the shovel there-- you, you, you, you, you, go pick up." I've got to stay back. If he takes me, okay. If he doesn't take me, I'll have to go back home. (Even though now you have a job?) Yeah, I have a job. I gave him the rum and he gave me a job. But each day I've got to go there. If he wants me to work that day, he picks me. If he doesn't want me, he doesn't pick me. (And do you get paid if you don't get picked?) No. (And that's the job you have.) That's the job I have. And if the weather is bad, some of the fellows don't come out. Lots of times, I prayed that they'd have bad weather so I could get a shift. (And what was the job you were lucky enough to get?) A loaded train comes out on the bank of coal, and you've got to take the coal off. The last cars, maybe the last 10 cars, you had it easy--you open the door and the coal falls down the bank by itself. They could be dumped. But if you're by the engine, you've got to shovel every piece of coal, because you're far away from the edge of the bank. (And which cars did you get?) I'd have the cars by the engine. I had to shovel the coal out of the car and over the bank, every time. Hard work. And dirty work. And those times, for us there was no such a thing as a bath? tub, sink--you had to bring a bucket in? side to wash yourself--and coal is dirty. You had to clean up. Only the work clothes that I used, I put aside, and in the morning I'd put them on--so I'd get dirty again, before I'd go. If I worked or didn't work--when I came back, I'd be dirty and have to wash again. I'd be dirty anyhow. And lots of times I had to come back without working. I'd only get to work in the worse weather--snowing, blowing, rain-- that's the day I'd get a job. (And your pay?) 28 cents an hour. That was good money, that time. I made \$2.80 a day. And if I'd work a whole day there, I'd come home and get something to eat and wash myself, and you could say there was music, there was dancing--I didn't care. I was beat. And I was young. I was young and I was beat. (How much would you shovel in a shift?) Oh, the small cars, two men could shovel 10 cars in a day--that's 15 tons in a car. That's in a shift when an engine was always there, you could shovel up to 10 cars, that's 10 trips. Some days it would be 8 trips, 5 trips. But if you had two engines going, you could get 10 cars, you were supposed to be working 10 hours, but sometimes it would get dark and you'd only get 8 hours. (So even into the 'thirties, you were working those long days.) Oh yeah. And some days you'd work 24 hours--when you changed your shift (going from night shift to day shift or day shift to night.. ..) you stayed 24 hours in the steel plant. They'd give you an hour to go home, take your lunch, and go back. Only you never worked on the coal bank at nighttime. (That sounds like a rough job.) People do it. I did it. (Was this the kind of job you'd only give to people from the old country?) Oh no, no such a thing there. Canadian-born people too. They were fair on that. Only generally, the foreign people.

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